ABC NEWS Live Coverage of The Assassination of President Kennedy Part 7

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7mqHrPuHlNc (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7mqHrPuHlNc)

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From The Evening of Friday November 22nd 1963,ABC News Coverage of The Assassination of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

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just merely a battle between the liberals and conservatives of texas although the conservative stronghold is in the dallas area but there are other factions as we have mentioned to you that figure end to the overall political posture of the lone star state bob thank you murphy there were many eyewitnesses to the tragedy today in dallas but none with an entirely objective point of view however one does exist he is with bob fleming in washington now and we switch to abc's bob fleming in the nation's capital two reporters were on the president's plane that came back to washington this evening the two presidents playing really president johnson's and president kennedy's for president kennedy's body was aboard the plane charles roberts of newsweek magazine was one of the two pool reporters traveling for the media on that plane chuck let's start with the story of the oath of office taken by the president at the airport why was it done in the airplane itself bob the vice president left the hospital uh shortly after the president died and was rushed to the airport uh without any announcement as to where he was going for security reasons the decision was made to get him out of dallas he went aboard the plane and they pulled the drapes the curtains and uh then decided to wait and take back president kennedy's body on that plane and this was the air force one that the president and mrs kennedy had planned the plane that president kennedy had landed there just three hours earlier in i went aboard the plane at about 2 30 and we were ushered into the conference room on the plane which is about midships a small compartment about 12 by 15 and the vice president was standing there with his wife the judge who was an old friend of his had just arrived there a moment before i did and the lady judge sarah t hughes yes who is an old political ally of his they had found a small leather-bound

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they had found a small leather-bound bible not any bigger than that aboard the plane and had typed out the oath of office for the president he was waiting however for mrs kennedy to regain her composure and attend the ceremony she came from the rear of the plane where the president's casket had been placed and the vice president or the now president uh asked her to stand at his left and his wife lady bird stood at his right the judge a tiny little woman then extended the bible and had the president repeat after her the oath was it was the the is this an ordeal for mrs kennedy did you think her composure was amazing i actually feel that she was in a state of shock she uh her at this time her legs were still stained or splattered with blood and there was blood on her on this woman's suit she was wearing but uh when the chief of police who had brought the president to the airport asked her to please go back and lie down she actually mustered a smile and said no i'm fine thank you a few moments after that she did go to the back of the plane and then spent the whole trip back in the same compartment with the coffin what of the johnsons themselves the the new president and mrs johnson also tremendously disturbed or were they all so shocked so it was hard to tell or emotionally the the president uh was almost inaudible he he seemed to be under such strain uh as he took the oath uh it was a brief and of course very solemn ceremony it took just two minutes and uh he was

scarcely audible as he as he ended the oath with so help me god who were the other people who were there chuck there were about there were 27 we counted them in this little compartment there were three democratic congressmen from texas who have been making this

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from texas who have been making this hedgehopping trip with us and some secret service agents and a number of white house staff officers kenny o'donnell larry o'brien the president's air force aide his military aide and they had brought mrs kennedy out or written up in the hearse with mrs kennedy was there any word check on where the johnson's daughters were i haven't any idea they were not to have been part of the program in the uh there just wasn't a time to round up uh anyone for that ceremony i'm sure that can be understood and that was the story actually of the swearing-in of the new president of the united states as seen by charles roberts of newsweek aboard the air force one just before it left dallas to return to washington now to bill lawrence at the white house at this late hour the crowds around the silent empty white house are beginning to to thin out the throngs of mourners and the curious who were here earlier in the evening have now disappeared from the streets and the white house itself is dimly lighted president johnson returned to a spring valley home a little more than two hours ago after working for about four hours in his old ex office as vice president in the executive office building just across the street the white house has just announced that the body of president kennedy will be returned to the white house sometime tonight at an hour not yet fixed to be placed in the east room of the white house where it will lie and repose tomorrow the president's body will enter through the northwest gate and be driven up to the north portico the road inside the white house will be lined by soldiers sailors marines and airmen men from all the armed services paying a

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men from all the armed services paying a last tribute to their commander-in-chief president's body as i said will lie in repose at the white house tomorrow and on sunday at one o'clock we'll move into cortege up pennsylvania avenue the famous avenues of the presidents the road down which mr kennedy road when he was inaugurated as president back on january 20th 1961. this cortes will move at one o'clock on sunday and the body will lie in state for nearly one full day the funeral itself will be held at st matthews cathedral at 12 noon on monday with a pontifical requiem mass to be celebrated by his eminence richard cardinal cushing the archbishop of boston the the burial plans of the president have not been announced but it is widely assumed here that that he will be buried in this family plot at brookline massachusetts where his infant son patrick bouvier kennedy was buried last august after he was born and lived barely 39 hours this is bill lawrence at the white house heard the grief of his death until the day of ours and all men everywhere who love justice and freedom and peace will bow their heads at such a moment one can only turn to prayer prayer to comfort our grief to sustain mrs kennedy and his family and to strengthen president johnson and to guide us

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to guide us in time to come may god help us all mr uh governor have you met with president johnson yet no i've just arrived from new york and israel thank you very much that was the statement of our un ambassador adley stevenson immediately on his arrival uh in washington from new york the priest called to administer last rites of the roman catholic church to the late president kennedy said tonight that he administered the sacrament conditionally because he didn't know whether the president was alive or dead father oscar huber of holy trinity church said that when he entered the emergency room at parkland memorial hospital shortly before 1 pm that was central time a sheet was drawn over the president's face he raised the sheet to anoint the body with the holy oil of the sacrament of extreme unction i couldn't tell whether the president was alive the priest said he said he did not know the exact time he entered the room father huber is a native by the way of perryville missouri said he gave conditional absolution of sins to the president administered conditional extreme function and gave the president an apostolic blessing all rights of the roman catholic church now more on the suspected assassin his name once again lee harvey oswald 25 years old an ex-

marine who once announced that he would give up his american citizenship to become a soviet citizen he's an admitted marxist and this late word police say that it has been officially or definitely rather established that oswald was in the building from which the assassin's bullets were fired police say he was in the building at the very time when the president was killed this in connection with all the other evidence amounting against oswald at this moment the fact that he was arrested with a pistol in the theater the fact that he was identified as the man who shot down a police officer who attempted to question him on the street let's recap that story briefly oswald was an employee in the six-story building from which the president was assassinated now police say that he was definitely in the building at the time of the assassination sometime after the murder a police officer stopped him

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officer stopped him a man identified as oswald on a street four miles away but the killer pulled a pistol and shot the officer to death then minutes later a theater owner tipped off police that a man answering the killer's description had entered his theater four policemen invaded that theater the movie was still going on there was a dozen people watching it including oswald oswald spotted the police jumped to his feet yelled this is it and pulled a gun the gun misfired and the police swarmed all over oswald he denies all those accusations but he's been formally charged with killing a police officer now and he may yet be charged with assassinating the president what kind of a man is oswald well he has a strange background he himself said that he became interested in marxism at the age of 15. an old lady handed him a pamphlet about saving the rosenbergs the spies who handed atomic secrets to the russians you'll recall he joined the marine corps at the age of 17 and was discharged as a radar operator private first class when he was just 20 years old oswald said he discovered karl marx's book das capital while living in south dakota and as he put it it was like a very religious man opening the bible for the first time those were his words as he read dust capital here are more of oswald's own words i could see the impoverishment of the masses before my own eyes in my own mother he said i thought the workers life could be better i've not been just thinking about this i've been waiting to do it for two years saving my money just waiting until i got out of the marine corps like waiting to get out of prison shortly after his discharge from the marine corps oswald turned up in moscow and there he told u.s embassy officials that he was going to become a soviet citizen but for some reason he never did instead he married a russian girl and then returned to the united states still burning with a kind of fanaticism he began working to fulfill his own distorted beliefs he became a chairman of the fair play for cuba committee in new orleans he began passing out pro-castro

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he began passing out pro-castro pamphlets he fought on the streets with anti-castro cubans united press correspondent aleene mosby interviewed him in moscow in 1959 and she now recalls that he was a very determined person but unsure of himself naive and emotionally unbalanced the evidence both real and circumstantial seems to be overwhelming against lee harvey oswald at this moment there is no doubt that he'll stand trial for the murder of the policeman and possibly for the president from the president of the united states as well former vice president richard nixon said today that the assassination of the president is a terrible tragedy for the nation mrs nixon and i have sent a personal message expressing our deepest sympathy to the members of the family in this hour of sorrow mr nixon of course a resident of new york city at this time and in new york city the heart of it times square abc's jules bergman for this report normally times square at this hour would be packed with tens of thousands of the after theater crowd tonight at this hour it's almost empty this city is a portrait in sadness the feeling here is almost as if it were doomsday tens of thousands of people milling about and destroyed confusion have now drifted homeward and sadness sadness and grief and anger are all mixed here in a darkened time square and in the hearts of those who are still here the only real lights are the aircraft beacons almost indiscernible from the empire state building and the headlights of autos and buses as they pass our cameras here theaters closed even movies closed marquees darken cars and buses still roar by but traffic is lighter than usual for crowds up to now have been heavier there is a sense of loss people are wandering the street police told us confused and searching hotel lobbies have been empty and

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hotel lobbies have been empty and restaurants almost deserted all evening long it's like the night before the world came to an end people are neither excited nor complacent they are so stunned as to be almost left without emotions here you don't begin to realize what the president was in the hearts of these people what he stood for as a man and as a symbol until he is gone that's the message we gather from this crowd here in times square we should all go home one young man told us we should go home to find ourselves to discover where we are and what we must now do as with any great loss new yorkers here are seeking to find themselves to recover new york tonight is a city stunned a city searching for itself even as our entire nation is searching for itself all caused by one psychotic with a 29 surplus rifle and a 10 cent cartridge this is jules bergman abc reporting from times square in new york also in new york where he lives general douglas macarthur sent the following telegram today to mrs john f kennedy i realize the utter futility of words at such a time but the world of civilization shares the poignancy of this monumental tragedy as a former comrade in arms his death killed something within me and senator barry goldwater already touched himself by a family death called president kennedy's assassination a profound loss to the nation and the free world the arizona republican issued a statement on arrival in chicago muncie where he'll attend funeral services for his mother-in-law on saturday it is both shocking and dreadful said the senator that a thing like this could happen in a free country asked what effect the assassination would have on his political plans for next year the senator replied this won't affect my plans i don't want to discuss it now this is certainly no day to even think about politics newsmen said that goldwater appeared extremely upset

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goldwater appeared extremely upset even angry they reported mrs goldwater as obviously having wept considerably today goldwater said he'll return to washington tomorrow morning after the funeral of his mother-in-law mrs ray johnson the three living former presidents expressed shock and grief at the death of president kennedy by an assassin's bullet harry s truman said at first that he was too shaken to comment later he said i'm shocked beyond words of the tragedy that has happened to our country and to president kennedy's family today herbert hoover who was president from 1928 to said he loved america and has given his life for his country dwight eisenhower who proceeded to mr kennedy in the white house of course said in a statement i share the sense of shock and dismay that all americans feel at the despicable act that resulted in the death of our nation's president eisenhower and hoover were both in new york city mr truman at his home in independence missouri mr truman at least will be on hand in washington over the weekend before services start for mr kennedy on monday the united states secret service about which we talked and about which jim haggerty who has had particular acquaintance with them as former press secretary to former president eisenhower has feared a motorcade assassination attempt more than anything else it's been the guardian of american presidents for 61 years in private conversations and in books published by top officials after they left the service agents submitted the chief executives riding in open cars down crowded city streets were at their most vulnerable as the targets of assassination grieving most tonight mrs jacqueline kennedy and here in our studios in new york lisa howard with a portrait of mrs kennedy jacqueline bouvier kennedy is no longer the first lady of our land

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the first lady of our land she was our first lady just six weeks shy of three years but she has without question left her indelible mark on history the daughter of a socially prominent new york family mrs kennedy led the life of a wealthy eastern debutant and had absolutely no interest in politics but with her marriage to then senator john f kennedy on september 12th at a large formal very social wedding at newport rhode island she was thrust onto center stage and the spotlight burned fiercely her radiant good looks her charm her elegance her special flair attracted international attention from the moment her husband was elected to the presidency of the united states the late president once said that mrs kennedy's interests were aesthetic and cultural and her life in the white house reflected that assessment during her first year as first lady she devoted herself assiduously to the task of redecorating the white house to making it historically authentic once the white

house rooms were restored to their original state she conducted a television tour of the first family's home the whole nation was charmed and beguiled by mrs kennedy's hushed little girl tones by her genuine delight in what she had accomplished her unusual and frequent white house parties were the talk of washington a sunset cruise down the potomac a lawn party at mount vernon for 138 pablo casaus playing the cello in the east wing of the white house mrs kennedy's first lady traveled widely to france england italy india pakistan greece and morocco and everywhere she went she dazzled the crowds no one was immune from her charms neither mrs khrushchev nor ayab khan more narrow nor poke john with whom she had an unusually long audience and among the crowds she could engender

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and among the crowds she could engender overwhelming enthusiasm and even affection her comings and goings in the capitals of europe and asia were followed by sometimes hysterical cheers he promptly promptly reported over half the world her role on these travels was unique in american history often alone without the president at her side she received the endless bouquets from children attended state banquets waived to the mass throngs always cool and elegant always refraining from making any political comment no american first lady in history had ever traveled about in quite this capacity for it was a purely ceremonial and decorative role but she generated enormous goodwill for our country everywhere she went when she lost her third child patrick bouvier kennedy after only two days of life the whole country felt a wave of sympathy as she emerged from the hospital at otis air force base hand in hand with her husband mrs kennedy often made known her dislike of the unrelenting attention attended upon her comings and goings the constant surveillance of reporters and photographers and in all fairness it must be stated that she did not court all that press attention it courted her attracted by her unique beauty and special radiance but despite her desire for a private life mrs john f kennedy now departs the white house one of the most photographed women in the world a public personality in her own right a woman historians are not likely to forget lisa howard abc news and now back to bob young thank you lisa mrs kennedy is still at bethesda hospital tonight and she's expected to remain in an all-night vigil at her husband's side tomorrow she'll accompany the president's body to the white house where mr kennedy will lie in state in the east room beginning at 10 a.m abc will

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at 10 a.m abc will take the air with additional coverage of the death of president kennedy at the following for local times at 7 a.m eastern standard time 6 a.m central time 7 30 mountain and 6 30 pacific standard time threatening the life of a chief executive is a criminal offense hundreds of times the secret service has sworn out warrants against potential assassins to keep them behind bars until the president has left a scene agents assigned to the white house detail are the elite of the service each must have two years of field service they must be trained in foreign languages they must pass ruthless tests in marksmanship judo and even first aid they're trained never to watch the president himself but the people in crowds around him they also are sworn to throw themselves in front of their trust at the first indication of gunfire to take bullets if possible which might be meant for the chief executive there's no doubt that every agent would have sacrificed his life for john fitzgerald fitzgerald kennedy today if he'd had a chance to michael reilly one of the agents who guarded franklin roosevelt during the war years remarked once every man who joins the service is told he's expected to use his body as a shield if necessary and if the agent didn't think the risk was worth the salary he could work in any of 15 other secret service districts in the united states there are two absolute rules for motorcade protection the agent running or riding at the president's shoulder must never leave that position unless relieved and the other is to turn out the manpower in all secret service cars the moment trouble arises and literally get secret service bodies around the president violent death is no stranger to the family of joseph p kennedy along with great wealth and political triumph many tragedies have come to the irish american clan from boston joseph p kennedy jr the elder brother of the assassinated president you recall was lost in action in world war ii a navy pilot kennedy vanished on an air mission from england to occupied europe in 1945 a poor rather

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europe in 1945 a poor rather this was the son who originally had born the political hopes of the family but did not live to enter this field for many years another sister rosemary has been in an institution for the mentally [__] a cause for which the entire kennedy family has done much it was this misfortune that spurred the family's interest in programs for prevention and treatment of mental retardation a family foundation named for joseph p kennedy jr has contributed large sums to this cause and only last month president kennedy signed bills providing millions in federal funds to help help combat this affliction from dallas justice of the peace david johnson said tonight he doubted if the person who killed president kennedy would be tried on any federal charges johnson said there is no such federal charge as assassination and the law books contain nothing about the murder of a president the only record of an assassin being tried on a federal charge was when a military tribunal convicted the slayer of president james a garfield the apparent basis for that trial was that garfield is president of course was commander in chief of our military might and thus his killer could be tried under military law stay tuned for an abc news special by the way on president lyndon b johnson um this will be along at 11 59 this evening abc will be on the air most of this evening up through 2 a.m at least with further details on the tragedy of today pope paul vi prayed tonight for the soul of president kennedy the pope received the news only a few minutes after the president died and of course you'll recall that president kennedy was received in audience by the pope june 2 of this year during his visit to europe and visit to rome specifically in that case

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the head of the kennedy clan joseph p kennedy himself of course suffered a stroke in december of 1961 and never has recovered normal speech or the ability to walk for the first lady the former jacqueline boulier kennedy today's tragedy ended a 10-year marriage marked by many moments of loss twice miscarriages robbed her of babies and last august a son patrick bouvier kennedy of course died two days after his premature death the latest news um on governor john connolly of texas from memorial hospital in dallas where dr robert shaw performed surgery on the bullet wounded governor is that he had anticipated dr shaw says no permanent damage but he also said that president kennedy's death had not been mentioned to the 46 year old governor who was mr kennedy's first secretary of the navy in mr shaw's words connolly who was wounded by one bullet through the right shoulder was perfectly lucid and talk no more than any injured man would under the circumstances stay tuned now for an abc news special on president lyndon b johnson i can't uh shortly after six o'clock tonight lyndon banks johnson arrived in washington and made his first official statement as president of the united states

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i know that the world shares with soros and mrs kennedy and her family there i will do my best that is all i can do abc news now presents a special on the 36th president of the united states lyndon baines johnson here is abc news correspondent john secondary lyndon johnson was sworn in as 36th president of the united states at 3 29 this afternoon about an hour and a half after president kennedy's death the ceremony took place inside air force one the place which had carried president kennedy to texas the oath was administered by federal judge sarah t.use an old friend and of the johnson family it was the first time that a president of the united states had been sworn in by a woman mrs johnson and mrs kennedy were at the new president's side as he took the oath president kennedy's body was in the plane it was a grim silence ceremony unlike the usual festive swearing inns the whole business lasted only two minutes and then johnson gave his first order as president he said let's get airborne from the airplane president johnson telephoned mrs rose kennedy the assassinated president's mother he told her i wish to god there was something i could do i wanted you to know that he then passed the telephone receiver to mrs johnson and she said we feel like the heart has

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and she said we feel like the heart has been cut out of us in washington the president tonight went to his old office near the white house at the executive house where he met with congressional leaders and other officials and then he went to his own home in washington spring valley he did not stay in the white house this

night president johnson steps into a tough spot all vice presidents do he has some advantages some drawbacks he's a southerner this is one of the reasons why he was chosen as president kennedy's running mate but he's also a strong supporter of the civil rights program his initial reputation was made as a politician a shrewd wheeling dealing politician but in recent years he's acquired some of the aura of a statesman the new first family consists of mrs and mr johnson and their two teenage daughters their home is a texas ranch in johnson city johnson is six foot three 200 pounds he was born on august 27 1908. mrs johnson was born claudia alter taylor in a town called carmack deep in east texas a maid when she was a baby referred to a she's as pretty as a ladybird and since then the name is stuck she is now known and has always been known as ladybird their two daughters are linda bird and lucy baines and all four johnsons have the initials lbj in fact the initials are something of a family totem johnson was elected to congress in 1937 his grandfather very proud said of him he'll be a senator someday and in fact in 1948 the prophecy did come true johnson was elected to the senate by a margin of 87 votes four years later in 1952 then senator johnson was chosen by the senate democrats as their majority leader the youngest in history he was only 44 years old at the time

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years old at the time and when the democrats came to power he became the senate majority leader and for the next three terms of congress he earned a reputation as a most skilled parliamentarian in 1955 while in middleburg virginia he suffered a severe heart attack and for a while he hovered near death it was thought that even if he did live he would have to retire from the strenuous political life but he fought back and a few months after the hospital bed he was making jokes about his ailment you know it was almost four months ago that i was threatened with a heart attack three days afterwards ladybird came in my room and i decided i'd better do a little detective work and i said honey i don't think there's much use the doctors so fact i've got one chance out of ten to live do they and she said oh yes they do they think it's 56. five years later senator johnson was battling senator kennedy for the democratic presidential nomination he was regarded as a reactionary democrat kennedy was a liberal and when kennedy went out and chose johnson to be his running mate there was many doubts in many minds as to how this political marriage might work out the two were political adversaries deeply their political philosophy seemed to completely differ their backgrounds were different kennedy was a northern intellectual johnson was a southerner a politician but johnson turned out to be not only a good loser but also a faithful aide he gave no indication he gave an indication the future relations to the president would be in his acceptance speech at los angeles in 1960. i know when i see political genius and i have seen it in my friend john

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and i have seen it in my friend john f kennedy the democrats of this nation are going all the way with jfk but there is much more my tasks in the senate are the task of leadership of knowing men of seeing into them of knowing what they're made of long ago when both of us were in the house of representatives together serving under mr sam i saw inside this man the steel of strength that is all too rare and i have watched with unabashed pride as he knows as these qualities have come forth in the senate in these times this is the man america will choose this is the man that you and all your countrymen can trust to be the trustee for your children's future there is character here there is quality here there is greatness here and if as he said the other day he has learned something from me i'm sure that i've learned a great deal also from him to him i want to express my gratitude for his confidence his confidence in me and my humility at the compliment which is mine

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humility at the compliment which is mine to share this moment of opportunity with him for that i am grateful more especially in a more personal way i am grateful and i'm proud i'm proud of the bond of friendship which formed long ago and proud that it's still holding fast fast as i knew it would be just as soon as we finished our lawsuit and the jury came in with a verdict so i say to you this evening it is this quality of our american life and our american system which more than most any other reaffirms my faith not only in the greatness of the

system but in the greatness of the human race wherever he wants me to go i will go for the party for the nation i will go because i know we both want america to go up the same road toward greatness johnson pledged fealty not only to kennedy the man but also to the president's policies himself a protestant he campaigned throughout the country for kennedy the catholic for civil rights for things that the country was unaware he stood for he invaded the north country not particularly friendly to him at the time and managed to cause some of the daughters to wonder here's a section from one of his campaign speeches in new york uh starts with men's qualifications by their race or their religion or their region uh if we can ignore the bill of rights and find the

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ignore the bill of rights and find the constitution and say that when the kennedy is qualified to save his country in the house and the senate and in the service and break his back to hauling his crew members out of the all the ocean or to save their life that he is not qualified to be president because he's a catholic and then with all of that logic to this logical conclusion tomorrow you could say that governor riversoft could not be governor because he's a jew or i would really be a national disaster that i couldn't be a senator because i belonged to a christian church or that for someone else couldn't be a president because he was a baptist participant and if you did that all down the line and applied the same past to each church you'd ultimately wind up with no one qualified or available for the presidency except someone who did not believe in god at all or some atheistic communist and that's uh we'll be doing johnson is vice president his friends just couldn't see the bustling senator in that recessive role how would lyndon johnson cope with it would he compete with the president or would he recede so far into the background as to almost achieve political obscurity that was the question while lyndon johnson traveled he made wendell wilkin and richard nixon who were earlier girl protests look like pikers for instance this is berlin where johnson brought president kennedy's message of bear up to germans living in the shadow of the wall where he talked with the people and with the leaders lyndon's johnson's travels took him north and south east and west and he took to varying climbs the way a politician takes two groups of minority voters the big glass the big smile the crowds were even more friendly if that's possible in turkey that staunch ally on the soviet flank

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that staunch ally on the soviet flank and as london johnson's motorcade swept through ankara they demonstrated that amity johnson sometimes had messages of import for the leaders but the message for the crowds is nothing but amity in turkey we bring to you the from the president of the united states his very warm wishes and his personal congratulations for many years there has been a traditional friendship between your country and mine and we have come here today to meet with you to share with you to join with you in the pleasure that comes from independence and from freedom and together we are going to work toward a peaceful world a prosperous world where our children can be healthy our children can be well-fed and our people can be housed and educated we have the same goals we have the same ambitions and by marching together we shall reach those goals it is a great privilege to be welcomed in such a manner i know we will enjoy our visit with you and johnson delivered his message to norway which gave him a welcome quite opposite its weather he repeated his earliest performances in norway and while the norwegians enjoyed the tall westerner the newspapers back home reported each new success so lyndon johnson evaded obscurity at home even while traveling to the furthest points of the compass

00:42:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7mqHrPuHlNc&t=2520s)

points of the compass they shook hands with antonio cena and hundreds of other foreign government officials and he learned how to spell texas in greeks and then he returned the favor by giving a lesson in exuberant and not in expert dancing lyndon johnson traveled he served the president and yet he avoided obscurity one of johnson's more publicized adventures was his meeting in pakistan with a camel driver bashir ahmad johnson toured asia you know as if he were back at home in texas campaigning every minute of it he met the people he kissed babies he shook hands and when he met the camel driver he gave him a souvenir

pencil and told him he hoped to see him in america someday that was in june 1961. five months later ahmad flew to texas to repay johnson's visit he became the most famous camel driver in all of pakistan under johnson and president kennedy the office of vice president became more than a nothing office vice president nixon under president eisenhower was given more powers than many vice presidents had received before but johnson was given even more overseas he was given authority to make agreements at home he was president kennedy's liaison with congress he met frequently with congressional leaders especially when pressure was needed his years in the senate stood him in good stead the friends he made as a majority leader helped him when it came to getting things done his knowledge of rules and procedure was put to good use he coaxed cajoled when necessary politic and he managed to get things done as vice president johnson took on so many chores that he needed three offices from which to operate one in the capital in the new senate office building and in the white house he kept a staff

00:44:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7mqHrPuHlNc&t=2642s)

and in the white house he kept a staff of 17 persons on the run constantly last month president kennedy was asked whether if he ran next year he would again want johnson as the vice presidential nominee and whether he expected johnson to be on the ticket he replied yes to both those questions that is correct he said one of his jobs was entertaining the president oh brother one of his jobs was entertaining for the president at his ranch in texas where there was all the room in the world he entertained ambassadors from abroad as well as congressmen senators united nations delegates visiting chiefs of state texas is noted for its hospitality and johnson was noted for being a texan there was no book of rules there were no lack of charcoal stakes roiled stakes and the visitors came to the johnson branch there was camaraderie and handshaking and good talk there was conversation about where this country was going and what it was doing to help other countries and there was talk about civil rights and the peace corps especially when the visitors were from the underdeveloped nations to whom we were rendering aid the johnson ranch was a place where africans and asians and europeans got a taste of americana johnson was a fabulous host he told his visitors some of the things he stood for he told them we have new potentials in this country we stand at the edge of a new era of human progress in our own country and in the world he also said we have new capacities we have strength and we use it to good avail and his wife lady bird was with him always during his texas entertaining which brings us to the present and tonight in washington and what it means and for that here is edward p morgan in washington

00:46:07 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7mqHrPuHlNc&t=2767s)

jet air force one that carried president kennedy on so many of his journeys which brought president johnson and president kennedy's body home to washington tonight after a brief statement to the nation at andrews air force base in nearby maryland the new president johnson shook hands with many congressional leaders administration officials and diplomats who had gathered at the airport then he boarded the army helicopter for the 15-minute ride to the rose garden on the white house long the burdens of his new office needless to say were with him on the way but he was driving already aboard the helicopter with him were defense secretary mcnamara and white house aide mcgeorge bundy a specialist in international security affairs for president kennedy he undoubtedly briefed the president on urgent foreign policy and national security affairs with which he has been conversant throughout his reign as vice president anyway landing in the white house rose garden johnson went to his office in the executive office building a sort of an extenuation of the white house just a few yards west of the actual white house building this is mrs johnson coming off the helicopter now and the president the president did not go actually into an office so recently vacated by john f kennedy in the white house itself but to that third office that john secondary mentioned a moment ago the one in the executive office building and here he asked for and received

00:48:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7mqHrPuHlNc&t=2882s)

and here he asked for and received pledges of bipartisan support and cooperation from the republican and democratic leaders of the congress where he himself had served so long and well both in the house and in the senate now he has a new an unexpected role the president had other duties tonight he spoke on the telephone with former presidents truman and eisenhower made a date for president eisenhower to meet him in the white house tomorrow morning at 11 30. earlier secretary dean rusk turning back from a mission to japan will see president johnson at 9 30. president johnson before going home to his mansion in spring valley in northwest washington which used to be the home of the hostess with the mostess pearl mesta before he did that he also discussed funeral arrangements for the president with sergeant shriver the president's brother-in-law who is in the white house taking care of these and other family arrangements and the president talked with jay edgar hoover about the search for the assassin he also put in a phone call to dallas and got a report from the doctor attending governor john connolly of texas who reported that the governor was in a satisfactory condition somebody today said that lyndon baines johnson was a liberal and intellect a conservative by geography certainly the southern label stuck so hard on him in 1960 that it was with the northern liberals a handicap indeed a group of negro leaders at the democratic convention when they heard the news that johnson and his leader kennedy the candidate for president were going to see them threaten to leave the room they were prevailed upon to stay and after the the presidential nominee made a few remarks johnson talked for 10 minutes and said gentlemen

00:50:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7mqHrPuHlNc&t=3001s)

minutes and said gentlemen i know what you think my label is but i want to tell you that you were are going to make more progress in civil rights in four years than we've made in the last 100 and come back in four years and see if i'm not correct they will come now in less time than that as a matter of fact one of the leaders of the naacp told this reporter after the birmingham crisis last spring that he had been astounded at the pace and the commitment that johnson had made for civil rights there is little doubt that as president lyndon johnson will embrace fully the main program of the kennedy new frontier particularly civil rights and a tax cut the majority leader is back somebody said today with sorrow but with realism they were talking about lyndon johnson the man who once was called a wheeler and dealer as majority leader of the senate who will now lead the senate and the house if you please as president from the white house he understood perhaps the creature of congress better than john f kennedy did and by that understanding he may ironically and paradoxically enough be able to make congress move faster on the program that john f kennedy himself was trying to push he will do it under a plea for unity and help this can be powerful at first and the hunch is the hunch of this reporter at least is that he will keep all of the top executive leaders in the administration particularly secretary rusk and defense secretary mcnamara there has been a certain coolness between him and attorney general kennedy but that is a minor aspect at this point he may get a two or three month honeymoon but then will come the terrible strain of 64. a rifle shot in dallas this afternoon changed the whole presidential campaign picture on both sides secondary reported that the president had a massive heart attack in june in july 55. what has he done to protect

00:52:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7mqHrPuHlNc&t=3122s)

in july 55. what has he done to protect himself he has quit smoking somebody asked lady bird johnson if he doesn't protect himself more than that who does and she said god i guess this is edward p morgan in washington it seems appropriate to end our special report on the 36th president of the united states with the first official statement of lyndon baines johnson as president on his arrival in washington after the horror of be dallas for me it is a deep personal tragedy i know that the world shares the sorrow that mr kennedy and her family there i will do my best that is all i can do i ask for your help and god this has been an abc news special on the 36th president of the united states lyndon baines johnson administration officials indicated that it would be a couple of hours after midnight before the late president's body arrives at the executive mansion an honor guard of soldiers sailors and marines will line the white house drive when the body is brought through the northwest gate there the hearse will go to the north portico another part of the honor guard will line the white house steps the lobby

00:54:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7mqHrPuHlNc&t=3240s)

line the white house steps the lobby and the hallway to the east room in that room which is the biggest one in the white house an honor guard will be posted throughout the night and two priests will kneel at stations adjacent to the beer on which the president's body rests and they'll pray throughout this night pope paul vi prayed tonight that the sacrifice of john kennedy may advance the cause that he promoted and defended for the freedom of peoples and the peace of the world the pontiff said that he would offer mass tomorrow for the peace of his the president's soul for the comfort of those who mourn his death and that love and not hatred shall reign among humanity now this report from abc's correspondent ron cocker well as the hours wear away it is still of course almost impossible to believe that our youngest president is dead lyndon johnson who saw president kennedy cut down by an assassin's bullet is now the 36th president of the united states shock disbelief and sorrow has swept the world condolences to the widow and to the nation have been received from world leaders in texas one of the grimmest manhunts in history is underway to find the sniper who hid out in a building and picked off the president as he drove in an open car on his way to make a speech in dallas today police have arrested a man in dallas in connection with the assassination the arrest followed a shooting in which a policeman was killed the suspect is 24 year old lee harvey oswald who worked in the building from which the fatal bullets were fired it is known that the bullets were fired from that building because the rifle was found there and spent shells dallas police say it's been established that oswald was in the building at the time funeral arrangements have been almost completed as our 36th president lyndon johnson takes command abc's white house correspondent bill lawrence has developments in washington

00:56:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7mqHrPuHlNc&t=3361s)

play about bringing in our report from the white house with bill lawrence the shock of the president kennedy sharing it will enter through the northwest gate and the driveway to the north portico will be lined with men from all of the military services paying a last tribute to their dead commander-in-chief the dimly lighted white house is empty tonight except for servants mrs kennedy is remaining at bethesda naval hospital where she went with the body of her husband after it was returned from dallas texas late yesterday afternoon the children carolyn and john f jr both on the verge of birth anniversaries are in seclusion and we do not know yet if they have been told of their father's death president lyndon b johnson worked his first few hours as president of the united states in the vice presidential suite he had occupied across the street in the executive office building then he went to a spring valley home but he will be back early tomorrow morning to confer with secretary of state rusk who with other cabinet members was headed for japan when the president was shot in dallas only the family and a few of the nation's highest officials including former president eisenhower will pay a final tribute to the slain president kennedy at the white house on saturday but on sunday a cortege will move up pennsylvania avenue to the capitol where the body will lie in state and members of the public will be allowed to pay their tribute the funeral is set for noon monday at st matthews cathedral with cardinal cushing celebrating a pontifical requiem mass burial plans are unannounced but the assumption is that john fitzgerald kennedy the 36th president of the united states will be placed beside the body of his infant son patrick bouvier kennedy in the kennedy

00:58:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7mqHrPuHlNc&t=3480s)

patrick bouvier kennedy in the kennedy family plot at brookline massachusetts a boston suburb this is bill lawrence at the white house this is john ralphson the same plane that sped president lyndon johnson back from dallas to washington a few hours after the assassination also carried the dead president mrs jacqueline kennedy accompanied the body of her husband and as the bronze casket was transferred to a hearse she was gently helped down to continue her journey of grief mrs kennedy has maintained a vigil into the night at her husband's side this late afternoon scene was at andrews air base outside washington lyndon johnson who had been sworn in as president aboard the plane at the dallas airfield made his first public presidential statement there i'm for all people we have suffered a loss that cannot be weighed for me it is a deep personal tragedy i know that the world shares the sorrow that mrs kennedy and her family bear i will do my best that is all i can do i ask for your help and god's

END